Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 IO-11
UPW-01 SAL-02 RSR-01 /108 W
008283

R 290715Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 493
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Jacobson DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY GENERAL MINH, SEPT 29

1. FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH VERSION OF STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM ISSUED BY GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH SEPTEMBER 29, 1971.

2. BEGIN TEXT: STATEMENT BY GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH SEPTEMBER 29, 1971. IN MY PROCLAMATION OF AUGUST 20, 1971, I HAVE SAID: "TO WITHDRAW FROM A FRAUDULENT FARCE IS TO GIVE THOSE HOLDING RESPONSIBILITIES AN OCCASION TO WAKE UP, TO GENERATE FOR THE PEOPLE A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY CAN APPLY THEIR MORAL STRENGTH TO THE REBUILDING OF DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE". (1)

3. NEVER HAS THE MORAL STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE BEEN AS HIGH AS TODAY.

4. THE SENATE HAS TAKEN UP THE DETERMINED STRUGGLE OF THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE ANTI-DEMONCRATIC ELECTION OF OCTOBER 3,

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1971 AND ISSUED A PROCLAMATION ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1971 CALLING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTION ON THE BASIS OF THE RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC RULES.

5. BUT THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO WAKE UP; THEY HAVE REPRESSED THE PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY SCRUPLES, GENERATING A SITUATION OF GRAVE CRISIS AND UNSTABILITY.

6. ONCE MORE, I MUST WARN THAT IF THE ELECTION IS NONETHELESS HELD IN THE EXISTING CONDITIONS, THE REGIME OF SOUTH VIETNAM WILL CEASE TO HAVE A DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL BASIS, WILL LOSE ALL CREDIT IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, AND WILL BE COMPLETELY ALIENATED FROM THE PEOPLE. SUCH A REGIME CAN IN NO WAY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE; THUS IT CANNOT END THE WAR, IT CANNOT BUILD PEACE, AND IT CAN ONLY SURVIVE BY CLINGING TO FOREIGN POWERS.

7. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE GLOOMY PROSPECTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, I WILL FIRMLY MAINTAIN MY POSITION; I SHALL BE ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE FIGHT FOR PEACE OF THE NATION. END TEXT

8. COMMENT: CHARACTERISTICALLY LOFTY, MINH'S STATEMENT REPRESENTS A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR VICE PRESIDENT KY WHO HAS APPEARED TO BE PUSHING MINH HARD TO COMMIT HIS PRESTIGE TO KY'S STRUGGLE ACTIVITIES. THE STATEMENT IS THE LEAST MINH COULD DO WITHOUT EXPOSING HIMSELF TO FURTHER CRITICISM FOR INACTION. BUNKER

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